General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 98

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/61/444)*]

61/180. Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/25 of 15 November 2000, 58/137 of 22 December 2003, 59/166 of 20 December 2004 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions on trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/27 of 27 July 2006 on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking, and previous Council resolutions on trafficking in persons that have emerged from the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling further the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and, in particular, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[3] and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,[4]

Welcoming the progress achieved by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in accordance with article 32 of the Convention, and by the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in accordance with Economic and Social Council decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974 and 1980/127 of 2 May 1980,

Recognizing that contemporary forms of slavery violate human rights and that trafficking in persons impairs the enjoyment of human rights, continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international response,

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[1] Resolution 55/25, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2171, No. 27531.

[4] Ibid., vol. 266, No. 3822.

Recognizing also that Member States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons, to investigate this crime and to ensure that perpetrators do not enjoy impunity,

Recognizing further that Member States have an obligation to provide protection for the victims, and acknowledging the necessity for Member States to adopt, in accordance with their international obligations, measures for prosecuting traffickers, preventing trafficking in persons and protecting and assisting its victims,

Welcoming international cooperation in order to promote and protect the human rights of persons exploited through trafficking and other contemporary forms of slavery and to advocate for their liberation and for economic, educational and other means of support to victims of trafficking and other contemporary forms of slavery,

Welcoming also the efforts of Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery and enhancing the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery,

Taking note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[5] and of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its thirty-first session,[6]

Underlining the need to continue to work towards a comprehensive, coordinated and holistic approach to the problem of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery, including devising, enforcing and strengthening effective measures to prosecute traffickers, prevent trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery and protect their victims,

1. *Recognizes* that broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is essential for effectively countering the threat of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery, and invites them to foster a global partnership against trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery, with a view to eliminating all contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons and protecting and assisting their victims;

2. *Underlines* the importance of bilateral, subregional and regional partnerships, initiatives and actions, and encourages their development;

3. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] and to implement fully all aspects of these instruments;

4. *Also urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

[5] E/CN.4/2006/62 and Add.1–3.

[6] A/HRC/Sub.1/58/25.

against Women,[7] and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,[4] and to implement fully all aspects of these instruments;

5. *Recognizes* the need to arrive at a better understanding of what constitutes demand and how to combat it, decides to strengthen efforts to counter the demand for victims of trafficking in persons, and encourages Member States to consider adopting legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, to discourage and reduce the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and that thus promotes trafficking;

6. *Also recognizes* the need to address the factors that make persons, especially women and children, vulnerable to trafficking, including poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunities, lack of equal access to education and lack of equal access to the labour market, and encourages Member States to adopt measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to counter those factors;

7. *Invites* Member States to give necessary guidelines and provide training and adequate resources to law enforcement bodies and other relevant authorities to combat trafficking in persons, to care for the rights and needs of the victims and to consider establishing coordination and cooperation mechanisms at the national and international levels on extradition, mutual legal assistance and sharing police intelligence information, as appropriate, taking into account the information and communication tools offered by Interpol;

8. *Also invites* Member States to improve and promote the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and indicators on trafficking in persons, including by strengthening bilateral, regional and international cooperation and coordination;

9. *Further invites* Member States to take all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social integration of human beings who have become victims of exploitation, violence and abuse as a result of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery;

10. *Encourages* Member States to initiate and develop working-level contacts among countries of origin, transit and destination, especially among police, prosecutors and social authorities;

11. *Welcomes* the holding, in Tokyo on 26 and 27 September 2006, of a meeting of United Nations offices, funds and programmes with other international organizations to enhance cooperation on trafficking in persons, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2006/27, and encourages continued collaboration to eliminate gaps and overlaps in the activities of the concerned bodies;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve upon the fledgling inter-agency coordination group on trafficking in persons in order to enhance cooperation and coordination and facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach by the international community to the problem of trafficking in persons;

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[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with coordinating the activities of the inter-agency coordination group, which should be based in Vienna, bearing in mind the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to cooperate with relevant international organizations outside of the United Nations system and to invite such organizations and interested Member States to participate, when appropriate, in the meetings of the inter-agency coordination group and to keep Member States informed of the schedule of the inter-agency coordination group and progress made by the group;

15. *Invites* the inter-agency coordination group, drawing on the comparative advantages of the respective agencies, to promote effective and efficient use of existing resources, using, to the extent possible, mechanisms already in place at the regional and national levels, and to share information, experiences and good practices on anti-trafficking activities of the partner agencies with Governments, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies;

16. *Invites* Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to facilitate optimum implementation of its coordination functions;

17. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled "Trafficking in persons: global patterns", requests the Office to continue to prepare such periodic reports, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and invites the inter-agency coordination group to provide information to the Office and contribute to the elaboration of the periodic comprehensive reports, database and website on trafficking in persons, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

18. *Invites* Member States to consider the advisability of a United Nations strategy or plan of action on preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers and protecting and assisting victims of trafficking;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and the proposals on strengthening the capacities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the efficient implementation of its coordination functions.

82nd plenary meeting
20 December 2006